

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and abuse of the public airwaves you are supposed to regulate.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge. When they act as the infomercial arm of a political party they need to be charged for it. I think \$50,000 for each of its 62 stations would be equitable. As an alternative, they could provide equal prime time without commercials to an equivalent length documentary chosen by Kerry supporters.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Thank you.